

Serial No. 09/831,432

Art Unit: 1751

In the Claims:

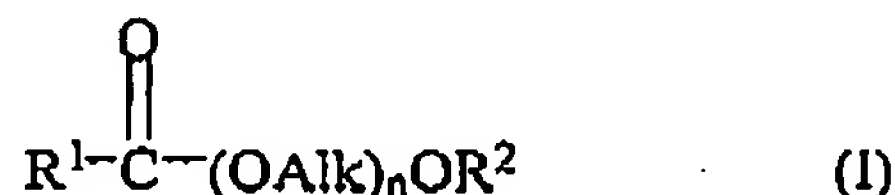
Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A method of rinsing machine-washed tableware materials, said method comprising:

(a) providing an anionic surfactant free rinse agent comprising an alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester with a narrow homolog distribution of the general formula (I):



wherein  $\text{R}^1\text{C}(\text{O})$  represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms, each  $\text{AlkO}$  independently represents an alkoxyate selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{O}$ ,  $n$  is a number of from 1 to 20, and  $\text{R}^2$  represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and

(b) contacting a tableware material surface with the rinse agent during machine washing of the tableware material surface.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein each  $\text{AlkO}$  represents a  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  represents a methyl group, and  $n$  is a number of from 5 to 15.

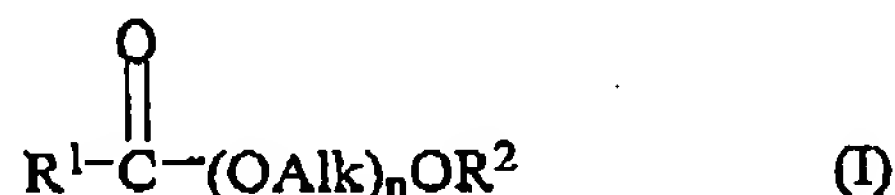
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Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester is prepared by reacting a carboxylic acid ester and an alkylene oxide in the presence of calcined hydrotalcite.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A method of rinsing machine-washed tableware materials, said method comprising:

(a) providing an anionic surfactant free rinse agent comprising (i) an alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester with a narrow homolog distribution of the general formula (I):



wherein  $\text{R}^1\text{C}(\text{O})$  represents an aliphatic acyl group, each  $\text{AlkO}$  independently represents an alkoxyate selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{O}$ ,  $n$  is a number of from 1 to 20, and  $\text{R}^2$  represents an aliphatic alkyl group and (ii) an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof; and

(b) contacting a tableware material surface with the rinse agent during machine washing of the tableware material surface.

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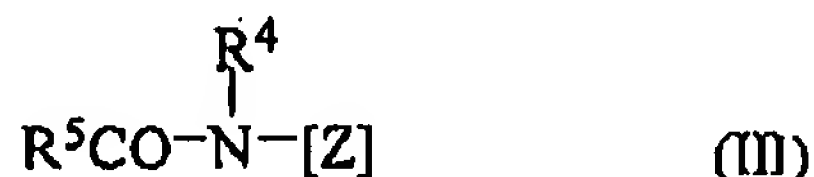
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Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises an alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula (II):



wherein  $R^3$  represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, each G independently represents a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number of from 1 to 10.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a fatty acid-N-alkyl polyhydroxy alkylamide of the general formula (III):



wherein  $R^5CO$  represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms,  $R^4$  represents an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and [Z] represents a linear or branched polyhydroxyalkyl group having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms and from 3 to 10 hydroxyl groups.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a fatty alcohol poly(alkylene)glycol ether of the general formula (V):



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wherein  $R^6$  represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, each MO independently represents an alkoxide selected from the group consisting of propylene oxide and butylene oxide, p is a number of from 1 to 15 and m is a number of from 0 to 10.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a fatty alcohol polyalkylene glycol ether of the general formula (VI):



wherein  $R^7$  represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, r is a number of from 1 to 10 and q is a number of from 0 to 15.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the general formula (VII):



wherein  $R^8$  represents an alk(en)yl group having from 4 to 18 carbon atoms, each  $R^9$  independently represents a hydrogen or a methyl or ethyl group, each  $R^{10}$  independently represents an alkyl group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms, x is a number of from 0 to 10, y is a number of from 1 to 30 and z is the number 1.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester and the additional nonionic surfactant are present in the rinse agent in a ratio by weight of from 10:90 to 80:20.

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**Claim 25 (Previously presented):** The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 26 (Previously presented):** The method according to claim 25, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

**Claim 27 (Previously presented):** The method according to claim 17, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 28 (Previously presented):** The method according to claim 27, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

**Claim 29 (Previously presented):** The method according to claim 19, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

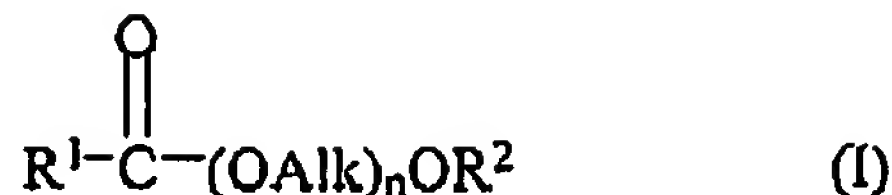
**Claim 30 (Previously presented):** The method according to claim 29, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

**Claim 31 (Previously presented):** An anionic surfactant free rinsing agent comprising:

(a) an alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester with a narrow homolog distribution of the general formula (I):

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wherein  $\text{R}^1\text{C}(\text{O})$  represents an aliphatic acyl group, each  $\text{AlkO}$  independently represents an alkoxyate selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{O}$ ,  $n$  is a number of from 1 to 20, and  $\text{R}^2$  represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and

(b) an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, further comprising an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, further comprising a solubilizer.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, wherein the alkoxyated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

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Claim 36 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 32, further comprising a solubilizer, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, and wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.